

hospital. Madam, we would like to know if this Government had previous knowledge about the infiltration of terrorists into Delhi for the last 15 to 20 days.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Only the previous Government had the information.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: If it is so, whether they had informed the authorities concerned, including the police officials of Delhi area to be vigilant. What is the action taken in this behalf? (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): He says that he has already answered.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He has not replied to the point raised by me.

Statement by Minister—Movement in Nepal

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Madam, As the House knows, as a result of a peaceful and valiant mass movement in Nepal during the past three months, there has been an agreement that multi-party democracy in Nepal shall be restored. This is an hour of happiness for the Nepalese polity. We believe it is a victory for peace, prosperity, development, democracy and happy relations with India. The people of India have since times immemorial, had the closest of links with the people of Nepal. We, therefore, share their happiness as also their trials and tribulations.

Momentous changes are taking place round the world at an unprecedented pace. The winds of liberalisation, freedom and democracy have been blowing across our planet. India is a democracy and our people are committed to democratic values. We are full of hope and faith in the aspirations of our Nepalese brethren for a liberal and truly democratic polity. Their has been an arduous struggle.

under a courageous and united leadership. It has borne fruit. In securing these political changes, the people of Nepal have opened a new chapter in the history of their land. This chapter must be full of promise, the beginning of a new dawn of peace, progress and national reconciliation.

We regret that many innocent lives have been lost due to the undue use of violence. Our hearts go out to the bereaved families. We offer them our deepest sympathy. Our sympathy also goes to the much larger number who have been injured.

India is the world's largest democracy. Our commitment to the cause of democracy, of equality and human dignity is well known and needs no reiteration. We thus have a natural sympathy for the quest of the people of Nepal for a truly democratic system of government. We shared their goal, we understood their values and valued their aspirations. The leading lights of Asian resurgence, Gandhiji, Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan, Ram Manoharji Lohia and our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had a wide vision, and all the time they emphasised the universality of freedom and democratic urges. India has upheld their outlook, that binds our people together additionally. As a responsible member of the international community India continues to adhere to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

We have every confidence that the future will see the people of Nepal and India, united in heart and mind as ever, working together for the benefit of our two countries.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, we in India, all people and all political parties, are very happy about the turn of events in Nepal. We are really happy that the King has at last seen the writing on the wall. Despite all his efforts, the wind of change that has been sweeping not only Eastern Europe and

Soviet Union but some other parts of the world, has also overtaken Nepal. We are also happy because our ties with Nepal are age-old. In fact, they are our blood brothers. The same blood flows through our veins. We should also not forget that Nepali solidiers—Gorkhas—have shed their blood for India's defence. So we are all happy. But our jubilation must be tempered with caution because there are dangers ahead for the Nepalese people and we, as their well-wishers, as people who want democracy to flourish there, must guard against it. There is already a difference of opinion over the issue as to what will be the place of the King there. The left forces want him to go and the Nepalese Congress want him to stay on as a symbol of nationhood. I hope they will be able to compose their differences. I am mentioning it because the Nepalese Palace will try to divide them on this issue. I hope they will remain united.

Another point I would like to mention is that every thing is in the hands of the King. That is why I say that our jubilation must be tempered with caution. We must not forget that there are 145 members of the Rashtriya Panchayat out of which 35 are nominated. So the balance of power is still in the hands of the King. He has to nominate the commission for constitution-making and he can put anybody there. Of course, he has not said that he will do this or do that. The Prime Minister there has announced that it will take about a year for elections and all that. So all these are obstacles are there to be overcome. We all hope that they will do that.

I want our Minister to tell us how the new developments affect our security perspective, how it affects it particularly in relation to China because China is still pursuing other methods. The winds of change have not overtaken China and in fact the old regime has been playing the China card

against us and China has been instrumental in this.

The second point I want to know is, how it affects particularly the 1950 Treaty. I am asking this question because even the Nepalese Congress people have started saying that they will have a new treaty. Now what will be the position of trade and transit. I am asking this question because the Nepalese people—not because of our mistakes but because of the mistakes of the Nepalese Government—have suffered enough. Foodgrains have not gone there, the kerosene has not gone there, oil and petrol have not gone there. In fact, the smugglers have overtaken and it is a part of the clique of the Royal Palace. It is the Royal Palace which has encouraged smuggling because it is benefiting directly out of it. So, will the Government now, in view of the new developments—that is my main question—try to alleviate the sufferings of the local people by sending foodgrains and other things? Really they are grateful to India because we are the people who helped them in getting rid of the Rana regime and again our M.Ps. and other people went there and gave them moral support. Of course, as a Government, we cannot go and interfere in their affairs, but we have done everything. So I want to ask the Government, will the Government now, in view of the new developments that have taken place, try to alleviate the sufferings of the local people who have terribly suffered, by giving them foodgrains and other needs and how does it affect our security environment?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, we are happy over the winds of change that are taking place in Nepal and other parts of the world and in India, the largest democracy in the world. But what steps have been taken to ensure that these changes are there on a permanent basis in our neighbouring country and what steps India would like to take to welcome such steps and such winds

of change in other parts of the world, just like what has happened in Nepal? I would like to seek these clarifications from the Minister.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam Vice-Chairman, today a great weight is off the shoulders of my friend, the honourable internal Affairs Minister—the constraints under which he has working the other day when he was forced to make a statement saying that this country is not “averse to”—and I would like to put in very large quotation makes this “not averse to”—the democratic aspirations of Nepal. That statement, wishy-washy though it was, is today changer to, “We are full of hope and faith in the aspirations of our Nepalese brethren for a liberal and truly democratic polity.” I only wish this statement had been made the other day, before this movement had finally succeeded. That was my earnest desire when I spoke the other day, had reason for that because, as the Minister has said, “Momentous changes are taking place round the world at an unprecedented pace. The winds of liberalization, freedom and democracy have been blowing across our planet.” And we on this sub-continent are not free of those winds. Those winds are blowing here too, and those winds were blowing in Nepal. But India, the largest democracy in the world, did not have the guts to stand up and say that we supported them.

Agreed, we are committed to the principle of non-interference. We did not have the guts to stand up and say that we supported them. We who, in our freedom struggle, got support from various democracies of the world, could not support them. Today, post facto, what is the point of these platitudes?—I do not understand. And I tell you where the danger lies. Those very people to whom you, as a Government, did not give even moral support, are today the Interim Government. They are the Government: they are the ones whose writ will run in Nepal; they are the ones who will decide on the relations of Nepal

with India, and not the Palace. No matter how much people may think that the Palace does control, no Palace is ever going to remain in control for ever all over the world, and definitely not in Nepal. It has been proved so.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): And dynasties!

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Absolutely—and it has been proved. I go further, Madam, and I would like to seek only one clarification from the honourable Minister.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Does he know the difference between democracy and dynasty?... (Interruptions)...

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Have we established contacts with the Interim Government? If we have established contacts with the Interim Government, what has been their reaction? Who have we sent as an emissary, apart from General Sinha, our Ambassador? Have we sent any emissary to the Interim Government? Is the Prime Minister, on the advice of the External Affairs Minister, contemplating sending a message of congratulations with a senior, respected politician of this country to go there and extend their congratulations and establish relations with the Interim Government on a one-to-one basis, not on a Government-to-Government basis, to correct the errors of the past? That is all I would like to ask the honourable Minister.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: You send a delegation of Members of Parliament to congratulate them and tell them to have people-to-people contact, to tell them that the people of India are with them. If the Government has technical difficulties, the people of India should be sent there.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: You should lead the delegation, Mr. Minister... (Interruptions)...

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, my friend is a very excitable person and I appreciate it because, if at his age

he were less excitable, I would pity him. This is the age when one should get excited—and I value it.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: What is your estimate of his age?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It has much to do with age. But if he goes back home and discusses with his partner in life, who is a diplomat, she would tell him the value of restraint. Restraint is a part of foreign policy. I think whenever one is in charge of the foreign policy of a major country like India, one should know the parameters of restraint. We have conducted our foreign policy *vis-a-vis* our neighbours positively with friendliness, with all the help and assistance that we can give to our neighbours. The atmosphere in the sub-continent has undergone a change in the last three months. The Nepalese policy has viewed positively our line. Therefore, I can only say this that we shall continue to pursue the policy of friendship and co-operation with the Nepalese people and their duly elected representatives.

My friend is slightly ahead of time because the interim government has not yet been formed. But when it is formed, due notice will be taken, due support will be extended, due appreciation will be given.

Thank you very much.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: What are you doing about visa and trade and helping the local people? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, I have taken note of what my friend has said. Things have not yet settled down. Let them settle down there. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The House now stands adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at seventeen minutes past eight of the clock.